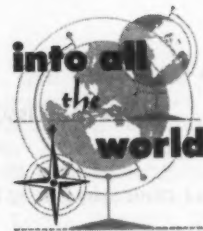


# Evangel



March 23, 1959

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

NOW 'upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, 'bringing the

spices which they had prepared, and certain *others* with them. 2 And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. 3 'And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Je'sus. 4 And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, 'behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:

5 And as they were afraid, and bowed down *their* faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye 'the living among the dead? 6 He is not here, but is risen: 'remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Gal'i-lee, 7 Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

## EASTER AND CHRISTIANITY

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## THE KEY TO SUCCESS

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## Bulletin Board

I am available for revivals during the spring and summer months. I would like to work in some of the missionary (especially western) states. I have had 10 years experience as pastor and evangelist and am a graduate of Lee College. I will travel alone.

—Carlie G. Butts  
1605 Prigmore Road  
Chattanooga 11, Tennessee

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I would like to have one each of the following Assembly Minutes: 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, and 1915. I will pay a reasonable price for any one or all five. Contact me—Sanford C. Elrod, Pleasant Drive, Apt. 15B, Opelika, Alabama.

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Please note change of address:

Rev. Bill E. Watson  
Caixa Postal 367  
Goiânia, Goiás  
Brazil, S. A.

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I am now open for revivals. You may contact me at the following address: A. E. Hall, 3613 Seventh Avenue, Parkersburg, West Virginia.

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The Fitzgerald Church of God extends a cordial invitation to all former pastors, members, and friends of the church to attend their annual Home-coming Day to be held all day Sunday, May 3, at the Fitzgerald Church of God at 708 East Altamaha Street.

Rev. H. M. Duck, pastor, will have a very distinguished speaker to preach at the evening service, and Brother Zebedee Parsons, church song director, will have a good program of choir and special singing outlined. Dinner will be served at the church also. Everyone is invited to attend this service.

—L. A. Yarbrough

# CHURCH OF GOD Evangel

Official Voice of the Church of God

CHARLES W. CONN, Editor

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## DECLARATION OF FAITH

### WE BELIEVE

1. In the verbal inspiration of the Bible. 2. In one God eternally existing in three persons; namely, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived of the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary. That Jesus was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead; that He ascended to heaven and is today at the right hand of the Father as the Intercessor. 4. That all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and that repentance is commanded of God for all and necessary for forgiveness of sins. 5. That justification, regeneration, and the new birth are wrought by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ. 6. In sanctification subsequent to the new birth, through faith in the blood of Christ; through the Word, and by the Holy Ghost. 7. Holiness to be God's standard of living for His people. 8. In the baptism of the Holy Ghost subsequent to a clean heart. 9. In speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, and that it is the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. 10. In water baptism by immersion, and all who repent should be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. 11. Divine healing is provided for all in the atonement. 12. In the Lord's Supper and washing of the saints' feet. 13. In the premillennial second coming of Jesus. First, to resurrect the righteous dead and to catch away the living saints to Him in the air. Second, to reign on the earth a thousand years. 14. In the bodily resurrection; eternal life for the righteous and eternal punishment for the wicked.

Published Weekly by

The Church of God Publishing House  
E. C. Thomas, Business Manager

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single Subscription, per year . . . \$2.00  
Single Copy . . . . . .05

Entered as second-class matter under act of March 3, 1879, at Cleveland, Tennessee. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, act of October 3, 1917. Authorized August 23, 1918.

**E**ASTER IS THE English translation of the Greek word "Pascha." However, it was originally called "Passover" in the early Church. It is used 29 times in the New Testament and is translated PASSOVER in 28 places. It is only called Easter in Acts 12:4. Speaking strictly in a Biblical sense, therefore, there is no such thing as Easter, especially as we know it today.

The New Testament Church observed the Passover, after Christ, in much the same fashion that the Jews did, before Christ. There were one or two major differences. First, the Jews used the lamb in their Passover observances, whereas the Church taught that CHRIST WAS THEIR PASSOVER, and they simply observed the Lord's Supper, letting the bread represent the body of Jesus. The Jews' Passover Lamb represented their faith in the coming Son of God. But He came to his own (the Jews) and they received Him not. They continued to observe the Passover and kill the lamb of sacrifice AFTER they had KILLED the Son of GOD whom their lamb represented. But the Church KNEW that Jesus WAS the LAMB OF GOD, and that He was, therefore, their PASSOVER.

"Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even CHRIST OUR PASSOVER is sacrificed for us" (1 Corinthians 5:7).

Isaiah 53:7 reads, "He [Christ] is brought AS A LAMB to the slaughter [sacrifice]."

John 1:29 says, "Behold THE LAMB OF GOD."

"Christ died FOR OUR SINS according to the scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3). That is, Jesus died for our sins as the Scriptures had foretold, and as the type contained therein had died, the lamb for the people.

"Ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of CHRIST, AS OF A LAMB without blemish and without spot" (1 Peter 1:18, 19).

"And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the

four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, STOOD A LAMB as it had been slain . . . [and the angels were] Saying with a loud voice, WORTHY IS THE LAMB that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing" (Revelation 5:6, 12).

"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: THIS IS MY BODY, which is broken [sacrificed] for you: *this do in remembrance of me.* After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup IS THE NEW TESTAMENT [COVENANT] IN MY BLOOD: *THIS DO YE*, as oft as ye drink it, *IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.* For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, *YE DO SHEW THE LORD'S DEATH TILL HE COME*" (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

Yes, the early Church OBSERVED THE PASSOVER (Easter) as is outlined in the above Scriptures. They accepted Christ as the Lamb of

God, and knew that the day of substitutions was over. There was no need for a substitute when the REAL LAMB had already been killed. All we need to do now is to eat the bread and drink the cup (of the Lord's Supper) IN REMEMBRANCE OF CHRIST, and TO SHOW THE LORD'S DEATH TILL HE COMES AGAIN. In other words, this is our testimony of faith THAT HE WILL COME again.

Jesus intended the Lord's Supper (Passover or Easter) to represent a RESURRECTED LIVING CHRIST who is going to RETURN TO THE EARTH AGAIN. He did not intend it to remind us of the GRAVE of Christ, but of THE RETURN OF CHRIST. Hallelujah! Praise to the coming Christ.

But then Catholicism injected itself, and the long controversy between the Eastern and Western churches began over the date to observe Easter. By that time the Church's celebration of the Passover had been changed into the celebration of Easter. The date for Easter was finally settled by the Council of Nicaea in 325 A. D.,

(Continued on page 10)

# EASTER

By E. E. COLEMAN  
Greenville, Ohio

"And when he [Herod the king] had apprehended [arrested] him [Peter], he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quarters of soldiers to keep him; intending after EASTER to bring him forth to the people" (Acts 12:4).





# Easter and Christianity

By H. K. SULEIMAN

Atlanta, Georgia

**W**HY IS EASTER to be greatly recognized by Christians? Many reasons can be considered as the most adequate and authentic to our question, namely:

1. Easter or the resurrection day of our Lord is not merely an ordinary holiday or feast to be remembered by Christians; it is the cornerstone, the backbone, the root, the hope and, lastly, the foundation upon which Christianity stands. Easter is altogether unlike the birthday of our Saviour or Christmas. It is true that when an earthly prince is born into the royal family, much joy and celebration are displayed in every form. If that prince departs this life before he reigns over his people, however, it is evident that he is considered as if he had never been born; regardless of his beauty, intelligence, or strength, in a few years will be forgotten by even those who rejoiced at his birth and made much ado.

2. On the day our Saviour was born, which is known as Christmas to every Christian, little did the people of this world know about it, save a few shepherds and the angels in heaven. The birth of Christ is considered to be one of the exceptional phenomena known in human history. After He grew into manhood, His miraculous ministry among men continued for the space of almost three years and a half, but it came to an end (humanly speaking) when He was put to death by the enemies of the truth. Now if our Saviour who came to save lost humanity remained in the grave, what is the use of celebrating Christmas or His birth from year to year, with much ado and celebrations

which angels in heaven may not perform in comparison to us. Extraordinary preparations with heavy expenditures for the Christmas occasion are carried out, but, alas! not so for Easter.

3. The final joy and rest always come at the conclusion and not in the course of action. Let us turn to Exodus 14:15-29. Here we see, little joy and rest in the beginning, but triumph in verses 30 and 31, ended with real and worthy celebrations as recorded in Exodus 15:1-21. Notice also Esther 8:1 which tells about the king giving Mordecai his seal and authority. There were some shoutings of joy in part, but the real joy and peace came to the Jews after they avenged themselves of their enemies. It came when they made those two days of March (Adar) occasions for feasting and rejoicing (Esther 9:17-19). The incident was decreed by Queen Esther and it is still preserved by the Jews to this very day.

4. The significance of Easter was realistic with the early Church, because the faith of Christians wholly centered and revolved around this blessed resurrection. No wonder the Eastern Orthodox Church to this day still holds the greatest celebration and preserves Easter with highest reverence. It would be most interesting to spend Easter in Jerusalem with the Eastern Orthodox Church. You would then know the very importance it holds with these dear people whose ways of worship devolved to them since the second century A. D., and which were strengthened at the time the Roman empire accepted Christianity as her main religion (during the reign of Constantine

and his mother, Helen). These people, according to their simple faith, believe that preceding the resurrection, the holy light (fire) was given, which would have been late on Saturday; and on Easter Sunday very early, almost after midnight, the resurrection of our Lord is announced. Hallelujah! Oh, with what great joy shouts and praises ascend from the crowd! Church bells all over the country ring their jubilant sounds and everybody goes home to feast with his loved ones. The sign of Christ's triumph over death, grave, and hell, being expressed by these words, "Christ Is Risen," may be answered, "He Is Risen Indeed." This confirms what Paul the Apostle wrote in most of his epistles, especially in 1 Corinthians 15:20, "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept."

5. Since the meaning of resurrection to us is life, why, then, do we attach greater importance to Christmas? Why do we neglect the very day on which Christ arose, giving us the hope and assurance of our resurrection? As born-again Christians, with Christ living in us, who is the hope of glory, we should make greater preparations and celebrations for Easter than any other Biblical occasion (which is of any spiritual significance) in real memory of what actually took place as recorded in the Scriptures. Our worship, praise, and gratitude should be more from the depths of our hearts on Easter Sunday as well as every time we either preach, teach, or tell of the blessed resurrection day. Glory to God!

(Continued on page 10)



# DEATH— Defeat or Victory?

By MRS. RUTH WILLIAMS  
Beckley, West Virginia

**H**OUSED IN A magnificent building in Los Angeles, California, is a huge painting called "The Crucifixion." It pictures the moment before our Lord is nailed to the cross. He is standing bathed in a glowing light awaiting death while the milling crowd looks on. The thousands who gaze upon this scene never forget its speaking qualities, for without a doubt this work of art speaks! It tells the world that death is not what it seems to be, for while mortal man calls it the end, through Christ it is the beginning. This was not evident to His disciples, for they stand near the cross, defeat and consternation written on their faces. Dreams of an earthly kingdom were over, and the future appeared hopeless.

The limitations of the mind make death final, but this was not true in the death of Jesus. He died in order to rise again and that resurrection assures all men of the fallacy of death. Death can be called a release from our present state to a higher one where suffering, sorrow, and mental anguish are unknown. It brings the only true security this world offers—a home, eternal in the heavens, not made by mortal hands.

The man who gave His life on that Judean hillside had walked a path of glory. His name was on

every tongue and His deeds were the talk of every nation. Healing the sick and raising the dead were ordinary occurrences. Great and mighty miracles were performed daily. However, His greatest achievement was not in what He did for others; it was the personal, victorious surrender to the will of God in death that demonstrated His power and strength. The magnificence and greatness of His atonement on the cross supersedes anything He did while living. He died by choice; heaven was His to command, yet some of His words go like this, "Father, forgive them; they know not what they do."

Unparalleled deliverance and life came to each of us by Christ's giving His life at Calvary. He broke the last barrier holding man, thereby making him a radiant, rapturous individual with eternal hope. Instead of death bringing frustration and extinction, the Christian can look forward to fulfillment and absolute security. We are told in Psalm 49:10 that "Wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person PERISH, and leave their wealth to others." To perish is to be destroyed or come to nothing, but the death of the Christian brings an abundant inheritance. Heaven with its riches awaits!

Mankind is making a mad,  
(Continued on page 10)



**N**OTHING SUCCEEDS like success" is a maxim often used to explain the triumphs of individuals who seem to have habitually outwitted failure. The proposition, however, ignores the fundamental issue of initial success. What accounts for a person's first victory? If it is indeed his initial triumph, how can it be attributed to previous successes?

A better proposition would be, "Nothing succeeds like faith!" This is true to a great extent in secular affairs, but to behold the operation of this principle in its most astonishing effectiveness, we must survey the spiritual sphere. Did not Jesus say, "If thou canst believe,

One reason why the world does not behold greater manifestations of the exceedingly abundant ability of the Almighty is because the faith of so many believers is alloyed with doubt or fear. Fear of failure has hindered scores of saints from attempting anything more than the commonplace for God.

The Bible does not seem to confirm the notion that faith and fear cannot be present in the same man at the same time. One needy man, when exhorted by Jesus to believe, confessed, "Lord, I believe. Help thou mine unbelief." Faith and doubt were both present in that man's mind, as they are present in the hearts of multitudes

miral, David G. Farragut, chided, "Sir, what was the real reason you could not get into Charleston?"

"Oh," answered Rear Admiral S. F. Dupont, "it was because the channel was too crooked."

"No, sir," contradicted Farragut, "that was not the reason."

"Well," excused Dupont, "the enemy fire was perfectly horrible."

"I have no doubt of that," conceded Farragut. "But even that was not the real reason for your failure."

"What was it, then?" demanded Dupont.

"It was because you did not believe you could!" diagnosed the Admiral correctly. For Dupont had not really tried.

A wavering faith, declared James, cannot expect anything from the Lord. Neither can it accomplish anything for the Lord. But a steadfast faith, a faith that defies difficulties and scouts all possibility of failure, will succeed.

When England's Admiral Nelson was maneuvering his fleet to attack Napoleon's armada at the Battle of the Nile, great hordes of Arabs lined the shores to witness the engagement. The flag-captain addressed the admiral, "If we succeed, what will the world say?"

Nelson replied sharply, "If! There is no 'if' in this case. We shall succeed!"

And they did! How much more can Christians entertain confidence of success, for our assurance is based on the firm foundation of divine promises. God causes all things to work together for our good and His glory (Romans 8:28). God always causes us to triumph in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 2:14). If God be for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31). Faithful is He that promised. His performance will always accompany our faith. It matters not how many or who opposes. In all things believers are more than conquerors.

Alexander the Great was awakened by an agitated aide named Parmenio. "How can you be so calm; how can you sleep," the commander was asked, "when the enemy, Darius the Persian, is approaching with an army fifteen times as large as ours?"

(Continued on page 10)

# The Key to Success

By **RAYMOND L. COX**

Hillsboro, Oregon


all things are possible to him that believeth" (Mark 9:23)?

Jesus meant what he said. All things are possible. The God of the Bible who challenged, "I am the Lord, is there anything too hard for me?" has not grown effete. He still channels His omnipotence to man. He is "able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think." The same verse which conveys that assurance declares, however, that His divine exertions are implemented through His people: "according to the power that worketh in us" (Ephesians 3:20). How can that power be released? God's revelation declares that it is through our faith. "According to your faith be it done unto you" is an unfailing law of the spiritual kingdom.

today. However, one or the other must gain the ascendancy. If faith does not overcome doubt, doubt will overcome faith. Indefinite co-existence, in the form of a spiritual stalemate, is quite unlikely. Unbelief must be helped by its reduction or removal, or faith will be harmed.

**FEAR AND** doubt will discourage an individual from attempting to execute his duties. Faith involves expectation and execution. A noted missionary counseled, "Expect great things from God. Then attempt great things for God." Unbelief will often arrest the attempt.

After Dupont had failed to crash into the Charleston harbor with his ironclad battleships during the Civil War, the venerable old ad-



# The Revelation of the Spirit

By JACK W. SIMMONS  
Virginia Beach, Virginia

*"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches" (Revelation 2:7).*

THESE WORDS, or similar, were addressed to each of the seven churches at the conclusion of each message. These messages were the revelation of Jesus Christ, given to John, to send unto each of the angels, or pastors, of each local church. Because these words were repeated to the churches, there seems to be an urgency expressed by Christ to show the churches' greatest need—that their inner ear might be opened to hear what the Spirit sayeth unto them. Although man has his part in God's

plan by hearing and yielding unto Him, it is God that openeth the ear of our understanding.

Each believer may express his thoughts and desires as the Psalmist David did in Psalm 119: 18, "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law." Yet, we see that even though we have God's precious written Word, which we have heard, seen, and handled (1 John 1:1), it is God that reveals His Word and opens our hearts to it. This fact is verified in Luke 24:45,

which states that Christ opened their understanding that they might understand the Scripture. He had spoken often of His suffering, death, burial, and resurrection; yet the eyes of their understanding were blinded to this truth.

Even the two on their way to the village of Emmaus did not recognize Him. Their eyes were "holden" until He was made known in breaking of bread. The reason for this blindness on their part was unbelief. They looked for the establishment of an earthly kingdom to be set up by Christ in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. They looked for Him to smite the nations and rule them with a rod of iron, but they overlooked His passion and death (Acts 1:6; Revelation 19:15).

When Jesus began to tell the disciples that He was going into Jerusalem to suffer many things of the elders, chief priests, and scribes, that He was going to be killed but that He would be raised again the third day, Peter began to rebuke Him, saying, "Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee." Then Jesus turned unto him and said, "Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men," (Matthew 16:23). Many, as Peter, would share the glory and wear the crown, but few are willing to suffer the shame of the cross.

After Abram had sent Hagar and her son, Ishmael, away from home into the wilderness of Beersheba, the water in the bottle became spent and Hagar cast the child under a shrub to die. Then she lifted up her voice and wept. An angel of the Lord called unto her and said, "What alleth thee, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the lad, where he is." Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She filled the bottle and gave the lad drink.

MAY GOD graciously open our eyes to see the well of salvation, that we might draw from its contents daily. "Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the well of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3). Then it will spring up as a well of



living water in our own souls, into everlasting life (John 4:14), and flow as a great river of works out of our lives that others who are thirsty may drink and live forever (John 7:37; Isaiah 55:1).

Now let us consider man in his natural, or fallen, state. In the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 13, the disciples had asked Jesus why He had spoken to the people in parables. Quoting from Isaiah, Jesus said, "It is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given . . . 'because they seeing [natural eye] see not; and hearing [natural ear] they hear not, neither do they understand.'" He also said, "The people's hearts are waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed."

Many have heard God's Word taught and expounded by God-sent ministers, but have let it fall as seed by the wayside to be devoured by the devil. The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God because they are spiritually discerned; neither can he know them, (1 Corinthians 2:14). Therefore, our efforts are useless unless the spirit of conviction brings the Word home to the soul.

John 14 speaks of the Comforter whom the believers were to receive. Verse 17 speaks of the world, or the natural man, being unable to receive the Spirit of truth because they did not see Him; neither did they know Him.

Man in his sinfulness, generally speaking, feels no need of God or His Son. Until he feels his lost state, he will go on disregarding God's Word, heedlessly going on to perdition.

Psalms 115:5-8 describes the lost and helpless state of man without the Lord and compares him to the idols he has made. "They have mouths, but they speak not; eyes have they, but they see not: They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not; neither speak they through their throat. They that make them are like unto them; so is everyone that trusteth in them." Could there be

a more deplorable description given of man than is given here?

Is humanity to abide in this state? The answer is, "No!" God has provided a better way of life if those that feel their need will incline their ear and come unto the Lord and hear. God's promise is "Your soul shall live" (Isaiah 55:3). "The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live" (John 5:25).

By nature, the heart of man is full of darkness, sin, and unbelief. It is compared to the earth when "The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light" (Genesis 1:2, 3).

Paul refers to this in 2 Corinthians 4:6: "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." This same thought is surely expressed by the writer of that old song we love to sing, "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now I'm found; was blind, but now I see."

Knowing Christ comes as a revelation of the Father, not of flesh and blood. Hundreds have heard the gospel message and know Christ from a historical standpoint, but this is not enough! There must be an inward change: a life transformed and renewed by the life-giving Spirit of God. The report is to be believed and acted upon before the arm of the Lord will be revealed (Isaiah 53:1, 2).

On one occasion, Christ asked His disciples the question, "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?"

Their answer was, "Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some Elias: and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets."

"But whom say ye that I am."

Peter answered, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus was revealed to Peter as

the Christ (Messiah) and as the Son of the living God (His divinity). This could only come as a revelation from the Father. "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God" (1 John 5:1).

We read of another revelation in Acts 8. The eunuch had asked about being baptized. Philip said, "If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest." The eunuch answered, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." This revelation came to him while Philip preached Jesus unto him.

When doubting Thomas saw the nail prints in the Lord's hands, and possibly after thrusting his hand into His side, he said unto Him, "My Lord and my God." No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost (1 Corinthians 12:3).

When the great Apostle Paul journeyed to Damascus, a great light shone about him and he was struck to the earth. He heard the voice of Jesus saying, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?"

"Who art thou, Lord," cried he. "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest."

Trembling and astonished, Paul, asked, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" He was told to go into the city and it would be told him what he must do. When he arose from the earth, his eyes were open, but he saw no man. In the meantime, God spoke to Ananias in a vision and told him to go into a street called "Straight" where he was to inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, "for behold he prayeth."

Ananias went and put his hands on Saul. The scales fell from Saul's eyes and he was filled with the Holy Ghost. The Apostle referred to this incident in writing to the Galatians. He said the gospel preached by him was not after man, for he received it not of man, neither was he taught it by man, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ. Yet he preached the same gospel as the other apostles!

Every child of God should be grateful to Him and His Son for the revelation of the Spirit through His Word.

## EASTER

(Continued from page 3)

when they fixed the first Sunday after the full moon occurring upon, or next after, March 21st to be Easter Sunday. This date was calculated by the (so-called) Golden Number method. This is much involved with what is known as the Metonic cycle, which is a period of nineteen Julian years, or about 235 lunar revolutions, at the end of which the phases of the moon recur at the same time of the year. One would be added to the number of the calendar year A. D. the sum divided by nineteen, and the remainder was called the Golden Number. However, if nineteen goes into the sum an even number of times, in which case there is no remainder, then they take the number nineteen as the Golden Number.

The early Church did not observe the Sunday before the Passover as Palm Sunday. Neither did they observe Ash Wednesday as the first day of Lent, for even Lent was a stranger to them.

Palm Sunday is so named because it is the day, of the Passover beginning, on which Jesus rode into Jerusalem on an ass, and the people spread PALMS in His way. Many years later, the Catholic church began blessing the palm branches carried by the worshippers. This blessing of the palms is followed by a procession of the people carrying palm branches and singing, which in turn, is followed by a Catholic Mass. Then the palm branches are burned and the ashes are used in the ceremonies on Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is strictly a Catholic day. It is named from the Catholic practice of sprinkling the ashes of palm branches on the heads of the penitent worshippers. This custom is thought to have been established by Gregory the Great. The ashes were then consecrated on the altar and sprinkled with holy water.

The Greek "pascha" is derived from the Hebrew "pecach," which, in turn, comes from the Chaldee. In English, all these mean PASS-OVER. The Chaldee term means a

pretermission, that is, an omission or an exemption, a passing over without giving heed to. Glory to God! That is just what GOD did for the Hebrews on that first Passover night. He passed over them WITHOUT giving heed to them. He was exempting them from death because the LAMB had been slain FOR them. This is exactly what GOD does for us when we accept JESUS AS OUR PASSOVER LAMB: He accepts the death of Jesus FOR US, PASSES OVER us with judgment, and comes to us with blessings.

Saints of God, let us all observe the Lord's Supper more often, and thereby tell the world that WE BELIEVE THE RISEN CHRIST IS COMING AGAIN.



## EASTER AND CHRISTIANITY

(Continued from page 5)

Yes, we enjoy singing the Christmas carols, but do you, Reader, deeply enjoy the singing of the triumphant songs of our Lord's resurrection daily, instead of once a year? It is sad to mention that Christians often do not consider the importance of Easter; instead of going to the churches to thank and praise God for the resurrection of our Lord, they go to their homes and some go to fulfill their lusts in various manners. To such, Christ is still in the grave and they are dead with Him, too; therefore, they have no hope whatsoever for their future resurrection into everlasting life!

Perhaps there are those who may say that they have the Spirit of God living in them; if so, then the theme of Christ's resurrection will make them celebrate Easter continually, not only once a year, but every Sunday, even every hour of their lives, provided they walk according to the leading and instructions of the Holy Spirit. In Romans 8:11, we read that if the Spirit of Him who raised Christ, from the dead is dwelling in us, then He that raised Christ from the dead shall quicken our mortal bodies also according to His Spirit

which dwelleth in us. Praise His name.

Dear Christian Brother and Sister, come with me to the garden tomb at Jerusalem, Palestine, on the early morn of Easter Sunday and behold the empty tomb, for *Christ Is Risen*. Hallelujah! See the crowd there from every nation under heaven, singing the songs of the jubilant resurrection of angels and men which started over nineteen hundred years ago! May the Lord of life give you the real vision of His majestic resurrection to keep on singing until you meet Him in glory. Praise the name of Jesus our King.



## DEATH—DEFEAT OR VICTORY?

(Continued from page 6)

desperate search for fame and glory. His life is spent in a futile attempt to accomplish something that will emblazon his name in the hall of fame. Brilliant, scientific minds are seeking a way to the outer worlds of the universe. All this is vain and useless, for the only flight man is certain of is the one called "death," and a child can probe into its mysteries. It is simply a trip through the stratosphere on wings of love under perfect conditions. Your companion is God, friends await your arrival, and your mansion is ready. So death is joy to you, the heavenly hosts, and even to those who sorrow. How wonderful it is to join the Apostle Paul as he says, "So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory"! The answer is ours to hold. Death is glory, everlasting and eternal, and it is also VICTORY, for we have reached home safely for the first time.



## THE KEY TO SUCCESS

(Continued from page 7)

"Why shouldn't I be calm?" replied Alexander. "Darius is coming

all the way here to deliver himself and his army into our hands."

With military or secular affairs, such confidence may be presumption, but in spiritual matters where Christians possess the promises of God, that unwavering assurance is justified. Nothing succeeds like faith. Jesus said, "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you" (Matthew 17:20). Adoniram Judson, when confronted with seemingly impossible circumstances in his mission to evangelize the Burmans, replied to a query con-

cerning his expectations, "The prospects are as bright as the promises of God." Those promises are appropriated through faith; thus your faith is your future.

Nothing succeeds like faith. What can faith do? What has faith not done? Faith has toppled Goliaths, routed aggressors, split seas, muzzled lions with lockjaw, caused Jericho's walls of forty-foot thickness to collapse, made iron to swim. What will faith do? Faith will accomplish for you what you need to live an overcoming life on earth. What is the victory that overcomes the world? John the aged Apostle answers, "Your faith." "Without faith it is impossible to please him"

(Hebrews 11:6). The ambition of every believer, therefore, ought to aspire to an energetic activation of victorious faith.

In order to accomplish this, we must deal with our doubts. The best brief formula I have heard advises, "Believe your beliefs and doubt your doubts. Never put any faith in your doubts or any doubt in your beliefs." The God who cannot lie will keep His promises and do as He has said. The Christian, therefore, can confess with Paul, "Sirs, I believe God." Faith will always be rewarded. Nothing succeeds like faith. *Your faith is your future.* God will make you a success if you steadfastly believe.



## testimonies

### God Still Heals

LUBBOCK, Tex.—My mother was seriously ill. She told me her tongue was getting numb, as well as her feet and legs. I called some of the saints to come pray with me for her. The Lord touched her body. Then she got worse; it seemed as though she wasn't going to live. I called my sister at Odessa and she came. The devil tried in every way to get us to call a doctor, but Mother had trusted God for her healing for 32 years. I promised God that if He would heal my mother, I would send my testimony to the *Evangel*. We called my brother in Florida, but before he could get here, Mother was healed. Pray for me that I will live for Him and be a true member of the Church of God. I praise God for the prayers of our pastor, Brother and Sister Wilma H. Henry, and all the saints. —Mrs. J. B. Lake

### Praises God for Healing

KEY WEST, Fla. — I want to thank and praise my Lord for healing my body. The Lord has been very real to me and has

healed my body various times. Not so long ago I had a bad spell which I think was caused by high blood pressure; God came on the scene and healed me. I want all the true Christians to pray for me and all of my loved ones that God will save my household and my precious mother.

—Jeannette Ingraham

### Child Healed of Serious Burns

ATLANTA, Ga.—On October 2, 1958, my two-year-old daughter pulled a perculator of hot coffee on top of her and burned her face, shoulder, and two-thirds of her back. About the middle of October our doctor told us she would have to have skin grafts on most of her body. That was on a Monday. The Hemphill Church of God had prayer meeting on Wednesday and prayed for her. On Friday she went back to the hospital. Our doctor came to us and said that it was just a miracle; most of her body was healed. Praise God. She had to have only three skin grafts. Her face does not have any scars at all. She came home on October 27.

I prayed with my hand on the *Evangel* one day and promised God if He would let me see the light that I would testify. On November 2, I was saved while I was in the hospital and my husband was saved February 8. Pray that we will have a closer walk with Him.

—Mrs. Dawn McCarley

### God Heals Two Children in One Family

GREENWOOD, S. C.—I want to write a testimony for my Lord. I have 6 children and our precious God has healed us so many times.

I promised God that if He would heal my four-year-old, I would write to the *Evangel* and testify for what He has done. He so sweetly healed my ten-year-old son of the same thing. I could not begin to tell what my Lord has done for us. I've seen healing, and everyone in my family has been healed. I want more people to be saved before it is too late, so pray for the lost. I have a wonderful love in my heart for the lost, sick, and lame.

I pray that our God will continue to bless our churches and all of His children that we will have a Holy Ghost revival in each church of His. Pray for me that God will let my life down here be a blessing for His glory. God bless the *Evangel* and every other means of reaching the lost. Bless His wonderful name.

—Mrs. Marion Smith

### God Is Faithful to Deliver

BARTOW, Fla.—I have had trouble with my nerves for about three years. I believe that if I will testify to my deliverance that God is faithful and just; He will deliver me. Pray that I will stand true and do God's will always.

—Margaret Adkison



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# in memoriam

## SIMMONS

Mary Ella Pringle Simmons was born at Riverview, Florida, on January 23, 1873. She married Rev. E. E. Simmons, now deceased, in 1891. From this marriage, there remains 3 daughters, Mrs. Bessie Sumner, Mrs. Emma Sumner, and Mrs. Pearl Caruthers; 2 sons, E. H. Simmons and W. J. Simmons; 22 grandchildren; 43 great-grandchildren; and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Sister Simmons received the baptism of the Holy Ghost and joined the Fire Baptist Church which later became the Church of God. Then she, along with Brother Simmons, became a minister and spent the remainder of her life in the service of the Lord. Brother and Sister Simmons were very active in the work of the Church of God at the time that it was organized in Florida. Brother Simmons was the pastor of the church at the time the campground was moved from Pleasant Grove to Wimauma and he was partly responsible for organizing the campground there. Brother and Sister Simmons set up the mission work in Jamaica, and also served as the state overseer of Louisiana at one time. I am sure many will remember Sister Simmons for her kind and humble devoted life to the Lord.

—Mrs. Emma Sumner, daughter

## GAYTON

On October 30, 1958, God called Sister Evie Gayton, one of our faithful members, home to rest. She was born March 22, 1883, and was a member of the Church of God for more than 40 years.

She was on her way to church services when the car in which she was riding was hit by another; death came almost instantly.

She leaves to mourn her passing, 4 daughters, 1 son, 18 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and a host of friends and relatives.

Everyone misses her in her usual place at church, as well as her sweet smile and her words of encouragement. She was a source of inspiration throughout the years and left many memories of her wonderful testimonies. Her greatest desire was to see all her children living for Jesus. Since her

passing, God is answering her prayers. One daughter, a son, and a granddaughter have given their hearts to the Lord. Join with us in prayer that the others will find the Lord before it is too late.

—Her children

## KIMMEL

Mrs. Jessie Pearl Kimmel passed away January 5, 1959, at the age of 82. She had been a faithful member of the Ranger Church of God since 1919, the year in which she moved to Ranger. Her husband, Benjamin David, preceded her in death in 1947. She is survived by 5 sons, 5 daughters, 39 grandchildren, and 57 great-grandchildren. Also surviving are 3 brothers and 2 sisters. The funeral was conducted by Rev. J. C. Atkins, pastor of the Ranger Church of God, assisted by Rev. K. C. Edmonds, pastor of the Eastside Baptist Church in Ranger.

—J. C. Atkins, pastor

## FRANKLIN

Evelyn Wiggins Franklin, 30, departed this life November 19, 1958, to be with Christ Jesus. She leaves to mourn her passing, her husband, Coy E. Franklin; 4 children, Bobby, Elaine, Carolyn, and Gail; her mother and step-father; 1 sister; 2 brothers; 1 half-sister; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Her pilgrimage has ended and Jesus has called her home. She never knew sin in its fullness because she gave her heart and life to God when she was only 11 years old, joined the Church of God, and has been faithful and true to its teachings. She was a child that a mother could never be ashamed of and we all can honor the memory of her. She always sought God's face for the well being and salvation of the souls of her husband and family.

She served the church with her attendance and support, serving as a worker and Sunday School teacher as long as she was able. She lived and taught the Word of God and now is resting and waiting for the trumpet of God to sound when the dead in Christ shall rise. Praise God for the hope and blessed assurance!

—Colleen P. Sapp, reporter



## POWELL

Brother Henry Arlington Powell, 74, ordained minister, was promoted to eternal life November 8, 1958. Although Brother Powell had been in ill health for several years, he died suddenly in Marietta, Georgia.

Having been licensed into the Church of God ministry in 1930, he served the church well as evangelist, pastor, and district overseer in the State of Georgia. Brother Powell played a great part in establishing our church in Marietta.

Brothers Jeff Dale, A. H. Griffin, and William H. Pratt officiated at the funeral and burial.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Ada Harris Powell; 3 daughters, Mrs. Herbert Garrison, Mrs. E. H. (Mae) Goggins, Mrs. Elmer Boyd; 5 sons, Arthur, Guy A., Hoyt H., all of Marietta; William L., Kennesaw; Sgt. James L. Powell, United States Air Force, Homestead, Florida; 25 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; 2 sisters, Mrs. Malissa Moss, Atlanta, and Mrs. C. C. Underwood, Marietta; 1 sister-in-law, Mrs. J. R. Powell, Kennesaw; and several nieces and nephews.

—William H. Pratt, reporter

When Robert Louis Stevenson, as a youth, took his first book of poems to the publisher, the book was refused. The publisher said that those poems were written by one who knew only the sunny side of life, and not reality. The poems did not reveal that the author was bedfast, that he suffered all the while he was writing them. Stevenson had so triumphed over his pain that the readers of his poems could see only beauty.—John H. Blough in *Streams of Healing* compiled by Lester R. Liles (Fleming H. Revell Company).



## reports

### CHURCH BURNS MORTGAGE



**RIVER ROUGE, Mich.** — The River Rouge Church of God is progressing under the leadership of our pastor, Rev. and Mrs. R. L. Morgan. Our church building was purchased in September, 1952, by Rev. M. P. Cross, who was at that time our state overseer. The building was purchased at a cost of \$9,000, to be paid at \$75 per month with interest.

A church was set in order in October by Rev. John Rathbun, Jr., who served two years as pastor.

Rev. E. B. Rose was appointed pastor by the General Assembly, September 1, 1954. At this time we purchased a parsonage at a cost of \$11,000. With the leadership of Brother Rose and the cooperation of the L.W.W.B. we paid \$7,000 on the parsonage and had less than

\$2,000 balance on the church mortgage when Brother Rose left us in February, 1958, to pastor a church in Easley, South Carolina. Much of the credit is given to Rev. Rose for his untiring efforts while he was with us.

Rev. R. L. Morgan came to us in February, 1958, and is doing a good job. We paid the church indebtedness down to \$500 and Brother Morgan asked the members and friends of the church to make pledges and pay off the mortgage. We did so and burned the mortgage.

Shown burning the note is (l. to r.): Rev. R. L. Morgan, W. D. Hayes, S. E. Donahue, Rev. Floyd Timmerman, and Rev. W. Carl Milligan.

—*Sherman E. Donahue, clerk*

### Fitzgerald District Has Youth Banquet

**FITZGERALD, Ga.**—On Friday evening, February 6, the pastor of the Fitzgerald district sponsored a "Fitzgerald District Youth Banquet" at the Community Center in Fitzgerald. The banquet was given in honor of the unmarried young people between the ages of 13 to 35. There were an estimated 200 present. Everyone registered as they came into the building.

After the services had been called to order by Rev. Eddie Green, district youth director and pastor of the Cordele Church, Brother Green led the congregation in singing "Amazing Grace." District overseer, Rev. H. M. Duck, and Rev. Green gave the welcome address; Rev. Earl Powell, pastor at Pitts, gave the invocation.

Following the invocation, the congregation enjoyed singing choruses entitled "The Youth Sings" led by State Youth Director, Rev. W. C. Swilley, Jr., after which the Preachers' Quartet, consisting of four of the pastors from the district, sang.

The next item was an exciting one. Rev. Green asked Sister Swilley to come forward to draw eight names out of the registration box, and the ones whose names were drawn were to be represented in the "Name That Tune" contest. After this exciting contest, the Fitzgerald Quartet rendered several gospel songs which proved a blessing to all present. Rev. Milton Smith, pastor at Central Grove, then led the "Youth Testifies," which were heart-thrilling testimonies given by Christian young people from all over the district. After a couple of other contests, the exciting part of the service turned to a more serious mood as the speaker of the evening, Rev. W. C. Swilley, Jr., Georgia State Sunday School and Youth Director, stepped before the congregation to deliver an interesting message. His subject was entitled "Do You Have a Disease and Is It Contagious?" in which he took some of the modern day physical diseases and applied them to spiritual diseases that most of the youth of today have.

In closing the service, the district banners were awarded. Pray for the youth of the Fitzgerald District that they will move forward for the Lord.

—*L. A. Yarbrough, reporter*

### Home-coming Is Successful

**PINK HILL, N. C.**—The Church of God at Pink Hill, North Carolina, had a wonderful home-coming Sunday October 19. It was raining on the outside and a spiritual blessing



was being poured out on the inside. The Lord spoke to hearts and when the offering was received friends and members alike responded to the call. We raised \$664.37 on the indebtedness of the church. Even though we have only 18 members, and the church is only 20 months old, the Lord is blessing us and we are growing. Pray for us at Pink Hill that we may continue to grow and prosper.

—Rev. Vann Ray Long, pastor

### Thankful to God for Pastor

INMAN, S. C.—On September 1, 1958, Rev. Holland came to the local Church of God at Inman to assume pastoral duties. This date marks a very distinct change at our church that has blessed the church in every way. Under the leadership of God, Rev. J. L. Holland served as our leader and led our church into a richer and more spiritual worship. This started the wheels of Pentecost turning in all their glory and reality.

On November 21, 1958, we began a two-week revival with Rev. Holland doing the preaching. God's blessings were certainly poured out during this revival. Members were baptized anew with the power of the Holy Ghost. People were saved, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Ghost. Also there were healings, among them a very serious heart condition, the healing of which is still being testified to by the believer. Our awareness as to the fulfillment of God's promises has been alerted by this revival. The revival was climaxed with our annual Christmas program, after which a baptismal service was held. Lives were re-surrendered, re-dedicated and re-consecrated, some by people who had not been satisfied for ten years. Eleven were saved, 10 sanctified, 11 filled with the Holy Ghost, and 2 were added to the church. Fourteen of these participated in the baptismal service.

As a result of the outpouring of God's Spirit and blessings, our tithes reached an all-time high in November. Also member attendance to all the church services has increased. We do thank God for sending such a God-filled leader and minister as Brother Holland.

—Shirley Hurley, reporter

### Breaks Record Attendance

SAN MANUEL, Ariz. — The Church of God at San Manuel would like to report through the *Evangel* that we have been using our new church for about four months. Our record attendance up to the first of this year was 72. We broke our record by one the

first Sunday of January, and the second Sunday we had 98. The third Sunday we had 96. We are really proud of these numbers. We have had 4 saved.

The future for our church looks bright. Our pastor, Rev. Lonnie Deaton, and his good wife, Judy, are working hard to help finish our building and to build up our attendance. We hope to have our building finished soon so that we can have our dedication service. Pray for us here at San Manuel.

If you have friends or relatives living in or around San Manuel and would like for us to visit them, please let us know their addresses. Write to: Church of God, Box 73, San Manuel, Arizona.

—Murrel Derrock, reporter

### Glorious District Convention in Jamaica

JAMAICA—The District of Lucea Convention in Jamaica convened January 10-16. Rev. Eric H. Wilson, pastor of Pittsburg Church of God, Kansas, was the night speaker.

From the very first service it seemed like heaven bent low and the kiss of God's approval was evident at all times. In spite of unseasonable rain and wind, hundreds upon hundreds gathered in the improvised tabernacle made from split bamboo poles to seek the face of God.

Night after night the altar was filled with people crying unto God for mercy and the forgiveness of sins. Besides scores who were reclaimed for the Lord, there were 115 saved. Of these, 60 were sanctified and 53 were gloriously filled with the Holy Ghost. Many more were refilled with the Holy Ghost. Thirty-seven were added to the church and many more who did not stay until the last service will be added to the church at a later date.

There was a sufficient number of people saved from one particular locality to warrant the establishment of a brand new church. Miracles of healing were also witnessed by those present, proving to all that Jesus Christ is still the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Anglicans, Presbyterians, and Methodists all alike were moved by the power of God and many of them were baptized in the Holy Ghost and danced in the Spirit under the power of God. One night a member of the House of Representatives of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's government was present and was one of the last to leave the service. Prominent businessmen and also a plantation owner were present, resulting in many doors being opened to our ministers. Pray that God will further work and

that these people will also be saved and added to the church.

The night services, scheduled to commence at 7:30 p.m., began at 6 p.m. because by that time every seat was taken and crowds were standing outside. Prayer began before sunrise and the triumphant shouting of God's people echoed, climaxing each day into the small hours of the morning.

—E. H. Wilson, reporter

### "Half-way Day" at Southside

PHOENIX, Ariz.—Members and friends of the Southside Church of God in Phoenix, had a special burden upon their hearts. The church was heavily in debt and we felt that it would be a great blessing to the entire church if something could be done to ease this load.

It seems that God began to move and deal with different individuals in the church and soon a plan began to take shape whereby much of this burden could be lifted.

Our pastor, Kenneth C. Combs, had a birthday just a few weeks away, November 16, and it was decided that this should be a very special day in the history of the Southside Church of God. It would be called "Half-way Day" because the church was going to try to clear the indebtedness half-way. Many sought God in behalf of this endeavor, trying to find a way that they could help. Everyone "put their shoulders to the wheel" and in spite of many being out of work and various other difficulties, we were able to raise \$1,415.40.

Even though the entire half-way amount was not raised the first day, the church expects to clear it during the remainder of this year and start on the second half at the time of our pastor's next birthday. Everyone is working toward this goal, and the best part of all is that God is really blessing. Our Sunday School and Y.P.E. are growing, and we have a heart full of thanks and love for our Lord. The old saying, "You just can't outdo God," certainly has been proved here at Southside.

—Dorothy Tunnell, reporter

### Church Is Progressing

STATE LINE, Miss.—The Church of God at Douglas Chapel is progressing nicely under the leadership of our new pastor and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. Lenord Davis. The Lord is blessing in every service. After reorganizing our L.W.W.B., we have painted the church inside and the parsonage inside and out, put in a new floor, and built a new brick chimney. Pray for Douglas Chapel Church of God.

—Mrs. W. W. Jones, reporter

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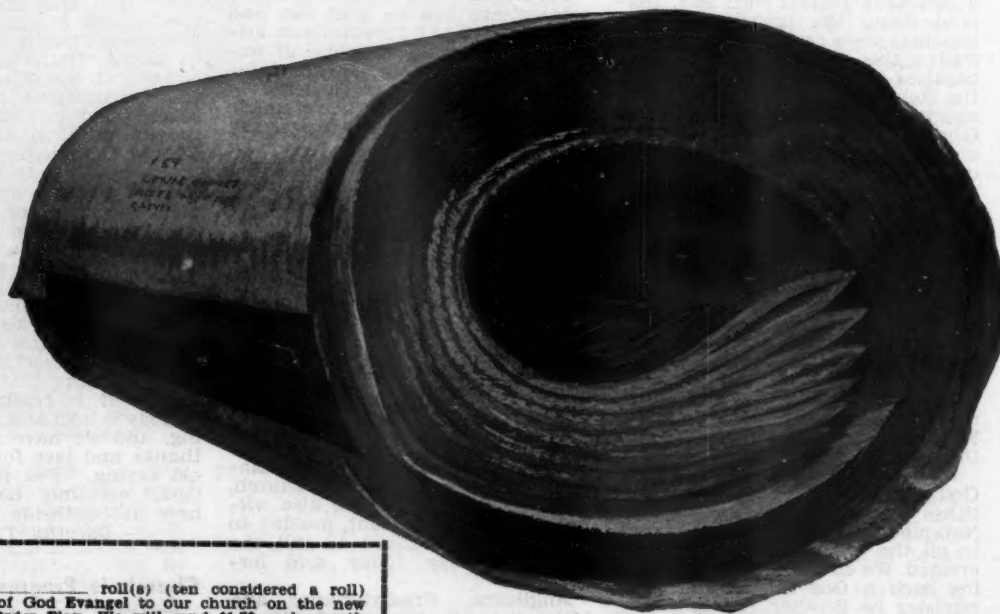
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